

## REVELATION: HELP FOR LIVING, HOPE FOR LEAVING

### Sermon no. 10

## FOR HE ALONE IS WORTHY: CHRIST THE LORD!

Revelation 5:1-14

There is a crisis of worship in the modern church. The average Service centers so much on the horizontal life of the Christian that the experience of awe in worship, the feeling that we are in God's presence, is often lost. The church as the throne of God, the minister mediating His presence the same way as the heavenly beings in this chapter, is one antidote to this failure of worship. Christians must experience God in his glorious splendor, and few passages are better than this for that purpose.

To prepare us for the declaration of judgment ahead, God shows the worthiness of Jesus Christ to take rulership over the earth and to judge it:

### 1. CHRIST ALONE IS WORTHY TO OPEN THE SCROLL

#### a) Tears in Heaven: The Dilemma of the Scroll: vv. 1-4

*I saw a mighty angel proclaiming in a loud voice, "Who is worthy to break the seals and open the scroll?" . . . I wept and wept because no one was found who was worthy to open the scroll or look inside.*

- Sometimes we despair if God will ever do something in our situation. Don't. He is in control even if we sometimes weep because there seems to be no solution in sight.

#### b) The Lion is a Lamb: vv. 5-7

*Then one of the elders said to me, "Do not weep! See, the Lion of the tribe of Judah, the Root of David, has triumphed. He is able to open the scroll and its seven seals." Then I saw a Lamb, looking as if it had been slain . . . He came and took the scroll from the right hand of Him who sat on the throne.*

- God's ways are not our ways. What is "weak" before men may not be weak before God.
- God's choice of a lamb to triumph means He does not turn to the mighty but to the victims; not to the strong but to the weak. This is an important message for our usual culture of self-aggrandizement. This is an important lesson for the modern church that often chooses the secular way rather than the divine, when people want leaders who are celebrities rather than servants.

## **2. CHRIST IS WORSHIPPED BY THE FOUR AND TWENTY FOUR vv. 8-10**

*And when He had taken it, the four living creatures and the twenty-four elders fell down before the Lamb . . . And they sang a new song:*

*"You are worthy to take the scroll and to open its seals, because You were slain, and with Your blood you purchased men for God from every tribe and language and people and nation.*

*You have made them to be a kingdom and priests to serve our God, and they will reign on the earth."*

- We were bought with an expensive price. You were not bought cheaply – so don't live like you were bought cheaply.
- We were bought with an expensive price for a particular reason: To be a Kingdom of Priests for God.

## **3. CHRIST IS WORSHIPPED BY ANGELS vv. 11-12**

*Then I looked and heard the voice of many angels . . . In a loud voice they sang:*

*"Worthy is the Lamb, who was slain, to receive power and wealth and wisdom and strength and honor and glory and praise!"*

- To Jesus Christ is ascribed seven things that God and God alone is worthy of! – Power, Wealth, Wisdom, Strength, Honor, Glory and Praise. Does this sound like a created being or an exalted angel to you?

## **4. CHRIST IS WORSHIPPED BY CREATION vv. 13-14**

*Then I heard every creature in heaven and on earth . . . singing:*

*"To Him who sits on the throne and to the Lamb: be praise and honor and glory and power, forever and ever!"*

- Christ is equated in worthiness with the Father, and inseparable from the Holy Spirit. The Trinity is taught here in Revelation 5, and the role of each is made clear.

## **FINAL THOUGHTS:**

Believers are sometimes guilty of the syndrome "your Jesus is too small." We have made Jesus our "big brother" and "friend" to such an extent that we've lost the sense that He is really our sovereign Lord. We must recapture the realization that He too is our God and worthy of worship at the deepest level. Like Yahweh, He deserves our praise and gratitude for His sovereignty and for the great victory won at the cross.